

NID Application

Feasibility and Implementation Risk Tab

A.5: Impacts and Consultation

The environmental and cultural resources impacts are still being evaluated as part of the development of the environmental document. The following table shows a preliminary assessment of impacts.

Resource	Impact and Mitigation Summary	
	Summary of Impacts	Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures
Aesthetics	The proposed facilities would be placed within potential view of sensitive land uses, such as recreational and residential uses. However, the existing wooded vegetation and areas of steep terrain characteristic of the general project vicinity may limit views of these new elements. Further, although this area may represent a scenic viewshed for some viewers, the project site is not designated as a scenic vista by the Placer or Nevada County General Plans, and no scenic highways, as designated by Caltrans, are located in the vicinity.	Project implementation would be coordinated with the affected jurisdictions to ensure consistency with aesthetic standards for development.
Air Quality	Prior to construction, an air quality technical study would be prepared to evaluate potential air quality impacts as a result of project implementation. Project implementation would not be anticipated to generate additional vehicle traffic beyond the construction phase, and would not establish any new stationary emissions sources. Further, feasible control measures could be implemented to reduce particulate matter emissions during construction. Project implementation would comply with the policies of the Placer and Nevada County General plans and County Code requirements, to the extent feasible, as they relate to construction air quality impacts. However, with implementation of control measures and compliance with applicable regulations, there is still the potential that construction emissions could exceed established standards in areas that are already designated as non-attainment.	Project implementation would include best management practices (BMPs) during construction, such as dust suppression techniques and equipment operation limitations. Project implementation would also require application for, and compliance with, the conditions of an Authority to Construct permit from the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD) and the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD).
Agriculture and Forestry Resources	Project implementation is anticipated to include development in areas currently designated for agriculture and/or forestry, and could result in a change to the current land use designations as a result of project development occurring in these areas. However, the proposed use of these lands for water supply would be consistent with the continued support of agricultural resources and operations within both Nevada and Placer Counties.	To the extent feasible, project implementation would comply with the applicable policies and regulations of the Counties and state, as intended for the protection of agriculture and forestry resources. Further, a timber harvest plan would be prepared to outline the harvesting plan, methods, and measures to protect the environment during harvesting.
Geology and Soils	Ground disturbance caused by construction activities has the potential to increase erosion and sedimentation rates above existing conditions, as well as the associated potential for construction-related soil erosion to affect receiving water quality. Prior to construction, a geotechnical investigation would be prepared to evaluate potential geologic hazard areas that could affect project implementation. It is anticipated that soil conditions and quality in the project area would also be evaluated for remnant mercury.	The project would be designed to address potential issues related to soil stability, and to include erosion and runoff control measures to minimize soil-related hazards and stormwater pollution during construction. In accordance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations, the project must obtain a General Permit to minimize the potential effects of construction runoff on receiving water quality.
Greenhouse Gas Emission	Construction-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions would mainly be associated with engine exhaust from construction equipment, transport trucks hauling materials, and worker commute trips. Although any increase in GHG emissions would add to the quantity of emissions that contribute to global climate change, it should be noted that construction-related emissions would be temporary and finite, and would occur over a phased construction period. Prior to construction, an air quality technical study would be prepared to evaluate potential air quality impacts as a result of project implementation, including an evaluation of estimated GHG emissions as a result of project implementation. Project implementation is not anticipated to conflict with the objectives of AB 32 or any other applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions.	To the extent feasible, project implementation would comply with the policies of the Placer and Nevada County General plans as they relate to GHG emissions during construction.
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	During project implementation, is anticipated that limited quantities of miscellaneous hazardous substances (such as petroleum-based products/fluids, solvents, and oils) would be employed in the project and staging areas during excavation, grading, and construction activities. As a result, the operation and storage of construction equipment in the project and staging areas increases the potential hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. Project implementation would also place new facilities and features within a high wildfire hazard area. However, the project area is currently served by fire protection services, and would require the continued commitment from the service providers for the new features and facilities (see Public Services description below for further detail).	Implementation of best management practices would help minimize the risk of accidental spills and releases to the environment. Further, project implementation would comply with all relevant Federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.
Hydrology, Water Quality, and Water Supply	Construction activities could cause or result in erosion and/or siltation of onsite soils, which can lead to increased levels of suspended sediments and turbidity in receiving waters, and could potentially impact water quality and result in a violation of water quality standards. One of the purposes of the Proposed Project is to meet future water supply needs, so for that reason, the Proposed Project itself would not generate a need for increased water service.	Project implementation would require coverage under the NPDES General Permit, and would include preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) with BMPs to reduce impacts from erosion and sedimentation during construction. Implementation of spill prevention measures would address the accidental or inadvertent release of oil, grease, or fuel into adjacent waterways and would further help minimize potential construction-related water quality impacts.
Land Use and Planning	Project implementation would alter the intended land use for the parcels within the project area, and would result in property acquisitions for easements and/or project construction. While the Proposed Project would result in significant land use changes in the project area, when evaluated in terms of currently designated land use and zoning designations, the Proposed Project would not be in direct conflict with any applicable land use plans, policies, regulations, or ordinances.	To the extent feasible, project implementation would comply with the applicable land use guidelines and zoning regulations for Nevada and Placer Counties, and would include early consultation to help guide the development process.
Noise	Project implementation would result in temporary construction-related noise disturbance in the vicinity of the project area, which includes noise sensitive land uses, such as residential and recreational land uses. However, following the completion of project construction, project operation would not be anticipated to generate excessive levels of noise at noise sensitive receptors located in the vicinity of the project area.	To the extent feasible, project implementation would include compliance with the noise ordinances of Placer and Nevada Counties as they relate to construction noise limits.
Population and Housing	Project implementation is not anticipated to contribute to population growth in the vicinity of the project area. Although project implementation would not result in the division of an established community, the project location would require the displacement of existing housing, including an estimated 25 single-family residences.	Residents that are displaced by NID would be provided with equivalent compensation to that of their existing home value prior to construction.

Resource	Impact and Mitigation Summary	
	Summary of Impacts	Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures
Public Services, Utilities, and Service Systems	The addition of project features would require continued commitment of the local law enforcement resources and fire response services that are currently serving the area. However, project implementation is not anticipated to contribute greatly to an increased need for police or fire protection services, since the project would not contribute to population growth in the vicinity of the project area. For this reason, project implementation is also not anticipated to impact existing schools or other government facilities. Project implementation is not anticipated to increase demand for solid waste disposal or wastewater treatment, and as such would not require service by local utility providers. Temporary service disruptions (i.e., electrical, gas, telecommunications, etc.) are anticipated due to the need for relocation of utilities	Advanced and continuous consultation with service providers would help to ensure that impacts to public services and utilities would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required. Continuous consultation with service providers during construction would minimize interference with electrical, gas, and telecommunication lines.
Recreation	Project implementation is not anticipated to result in an increased use of recreational facilities, since the project would not contribute to population growth in the vicinity of the project area. However, project implementation may temporarily preclude use of existing recreational facilities in the project area. Following construction, recreational facilities would be replaced with improved facilities, and project operation would not affect recreational access in the long-term.	To the extent feasible, the addition of recreational features to the project area would comply with the guidelines outlined in the Placer and Nevada County General Plans intended for the protection of recreational resources.
Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources	Construction activities have the potential to impact special status species and habitats known to occur in the project area. Direct permanent impacts from construction activities including clearing and grubbing of lands in the project area. Temporary indirect impacts from construction activities include sedimentation, dust, and soil erosion that may occur in sensitive habitats located adjacent to construction activities. Prior to project implementation, biological studies and wetland delineation of the project area would be conducted to determine the estimated project impact to sensitive species and habitats, and to develop avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures intended to protect such resources.	Early and ongoing agency consultation would help to ensure that required permits are obtained and appropriate protection measures are implemented in the project area during construction.
Transportation and Traffic	Project implementation has the potential to temporarily affect transportation and traffic during construction. Dog Bar Road crosses the Bear River west of Eden Valley and provides the only public connection between Placer County and Nevada County within the project area. Additionally, in some areas access through the general project vicinity would be permanently altered by project implementation. However, project implementation is anticipated to include advanced construction traffic planning to maintain residential access routes, as well as the development of a traffic safety plan to ensure the continuation of emergency response services during construction activities. Project implementation is not anticipated to result in long-term effects on local and regional transportation and traffic.	To the extent feasible, the addition of project features would comply with the Placer and Nevada County General Plan guidelines for maintaining safe and efficient operating conditions on all county roadways
Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources	Based on previous surveys in the project area, several parcels are known to contain built resources (buildings, structures, or objects). Several of these parcels contain private, single-family homes. Based on assessor parcel data of these parcels, some buildings may be more than 50 years old. Prior to construction, staff with expertise in cultural, archeological, and historic resources assessment would be required to conduct agency consultation regarding the potential for such resources to be located with the project's area of potential effect. Based on previous surveys conducted, project implementation would not be anticipated to result in the alteration of, or adverse physical or aesthetic effect to any significant historical resources. However, the potential remains that previously unknown historical resources could be discovered during grading and excavation work associated with new construction.	Project implementation would include mitigation measures intended for the protection of cultural resources, including the halting of construction activities in the event that cultural materials, human remains, or paleontological resources are discovered.

The following describes the status of tribal consultation:

By letter dated November 23, 2015 (received December 4, 2015) NID received a general request letter from the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) for consultation under AB 52 on NID projects (attached). By letter dated December 9, 2015 NID noticed UAIC by letter with an opportunity to consult on the Centennial Water Supply project (attached). By e-mail dated December 10, 2015 NID received a response from UAIC representative Marcos Guerrero acknowledging receipt of notice and opportunity to consult under AB 52 and requested additional information. By letter dated December 15, 2015 NID officially initiated consultation with UAIC for the Centennial Reservoir Project (attached). On January 19, 2016 an initial consultation meeting was held between UAIC and NID, with assistance from HDR and ECORP, at the NID office. Since that initial consultation meeting, numerous consultation meetings, field visits, and other activities have occurred (we can provide dates if necessary). In addition, UAIC has provided a tribal representative (paid by NID) to participate in the entirety of all cultural resources field investigations including survey and archaeological test excavations. That same UAIC representative is also currently completing Oral History interviews of UAIC tribal elders and compiling a history of tribal information for inclusion in the cultural resources study. NID has also formally requested a records search from UAIC. NID has also provided UAIC all known recorded cultural resources site data as draft DPR 523 records, scanned field notes, and GIS shapefiles.